

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended Claims 11, 13, 15, and 28; Claims 1-10, and 12 have been cancelled. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, Claims 11, and 13-30 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 9, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Byers et al. (US 5,142,629). In order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has canceled claims 1-10 without prejudice. Therefore, this rejection with respect to these claims is deemed to be moot.

3.) Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 23-30.

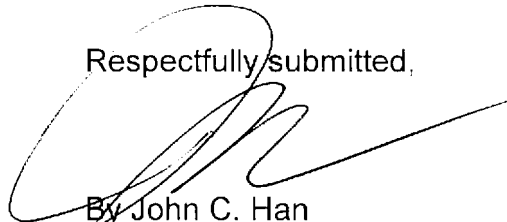
The Applicant notes with appreciation the conditional allowance of claims 12-22. As the Examiner has suggested, claims 12 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form including all limitation of the base claims and any intervening claims. Therefore no amendments have been made to narrow the scope of the pending claims or to create any sort of estoppel.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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